THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Buddhist Monastery at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh is one of the largest in Asia. The President of India laid the foundation stone of the project for construction of a Fixed Grip Monocable Jigback 2-seater cabin lift ropeway of 1176 metre between Tawang Monastery and Ani Gompa in Arunachal Pradesh in 2002.

(c) and (d) The project was sanctioned by Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER) for Rs. 330.89 lakh on 17.05.2006 from the Non Lapsable Pool of Central Resources after techno-economic examination by the Ministries concerned. The first installment of Rs. 104.23 lakh was released on 19.07.2006.

Rain water harvesting

†1459. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground water table has been declining for last several years due to continuous ineffectiveness of rain water harvesting system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the average annual decline in water level during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have fixed any targets for rain water harvesting to make rain water harvesting system more effective; and

(d) if so, the targets thereof and by when the target of at least 50 per cent rain water harvesting in the country will be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The ground water levels have been declining in isolated pockets in various parts of the country due to excessive withdrawal of ground water. The average annual rate of decline is 5 to 10 cm/year in specific areas. The State-wise numbers of blocks/mandals/talukas having declining trend is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) 'Water' being a State subject, action for implementation of rain water harvesting measures is to be taken by the States.Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), based on various studies carried out to demarcate the areas where decline of ground water level is on continuous basis and identify areas feasible for recharge, has prepared a concept report titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water". A total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water has been identified. It has been estimated that annually about 36 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of surplus monsoon runoff can be recharged to augment ground water. The document has been circulated to all the States/UTs.

Statement

States showing the declining trend in ground water levels as per assessment carried out by the Central Ground Water Board

Sl. No	State	Remarks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 296 mandals
2.	Delhi	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 7 Districts
3.	Gujarat	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 43 Talukas
4.	Haryana	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 66 Blocks
5.	Karnataka	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 68 Blocks
6.	Kerala	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 20 Blocks
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 29 Blocks
8.	Maharashtra	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 8 Blocks
9.	Punjab	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 108 Blocks
10.	Rajasthan	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 190 Blocks
11.	Tamil Nadu	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 175 Blocks

Sl. No.	State	Remarks
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 50 Blocks
13.	Uttaranchal	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 2 Blocks
14.	West Bengal	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 1 Blocks

Scarcity of ground water

†1460. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has made a request to evolve a nationwide consensus regarding imposition of cess to meet the scarcity of ground water availability;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government on the suggestion of the Planning Commission so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information received from the Planning Commission, they have not made any such request to the State Government or the Central Government/ Agencies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Water agreement between China and Bangladesh

†1461. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.